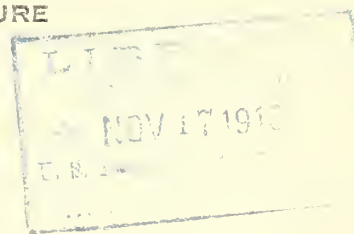


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9 B 527
Bf-106
Nov. '16

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY



HINTS ON THE CARE OF MINKS.

FOOD.

Minks thrive on the same diet as cats. Although naturally carnivorous, they readily learn to like an inexpensive mush made of wheat bread, corn bread, cooked oatmeal, boiled rice, or mashed potatoes, mixed with a small portion of chopped or ground meat, and softened with sweet milk or meat broth. Do not offer the same combination more than twice in succession. Fresh meat is always in order. Adults require about 4 ounces of clean meat, or the equivalent, daily. A strict diet of perfectly fresh beef is an excellent remedy for intestinal troubles. Cooked food is best when served warm, especially in winter. Feed twice a day, not more than is eaten up clean within a few minutes. Do not allow food to be stored in nests. Keep pans clean and provide fresh water regularly.

PENS.

Pens should have an area of about 32 square feet. They may be of heavy, 1-inch-mesh poultry netting, galvanized sheet iron, or smooth boards set on end. If the netting is used it should cover top, bottom, and sides. Board or iron walls should extend 2 feet into the ground and be turned inward a foot at the bottom. Their height depends on the snowfall. Minks can not jump straight upward more than 4 feet. Each animal should have a separate pen.

NEST BOXES.

Each nest box should be about 3 by 1 by 1 feet in size, and have a cross partition a foot from one end. The small compartment is for the nest, and the large one for an entry, shelter, and feeding place in bad weather. The entrance should be 4 inches in diameter and have a slide door by which the tenant may be shut in or out. The lid should be hinged, and there should be a removable screen just below to prevent escape when the lid is raised. Boxes should always be shaded and kept dry and dark. Fine straw or hay should be provided for the nests.

BREEDING.

Minks may be kept in pairs or in the proportion of one male to four or five females. The rutting season is in February or March. The young are born in April or May. Males should be admitted to females for about one day; or when kept in pairs they may be allowed to run with females until the end of the rutting period. Females should always be kept separate while with young.

1-7
B 327
Bi-106
Dec. '19

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

HINTS ON THE CARE OF MINKS.

FOOD:

Wild minks follow water courses and feed on frogs, fish, mice, birds, crawfish, and other small creatures. In captivity they learn readily to eat a variety of cereals, as well-cooked graham mash and wheat or corn bread, mixed with chopped or ground meat and milk or meat broth. Their principal diet, however, should always be meat or fish. Fresh chicken, rabbit, and fish heads, English sparrows, and carcasses of trapped woodchucks, muskrats, and skunks make excellent mink feed. When minks are fed largely on milk they should be watched to see that it does not cause diarrhea. Adults require about 4 ounces of clean meat, or the equivalent, daily. A strict diet of perfectly fresh beef is an excellent remedy for intestinal troubles. Cooked food is best when served warm, especially in winter. Feed twice a day, not more than is eaten up clean within a few minutes. Do not allow food to be stored in nests. Keep pans clean and provide fresh water regularly.

PENS:

Pens should have an area of about 32 square feet. They may be of heavy 1-inch-mesh poultry netting, galvanized sheet iron, or smooth boards set on end. If netting is used, it should cover top, bottom, and sides. Board or iron walls should extend 2 feet into the ground and be turned inward a foot at the bottom. Their height depends on the snowfall. Minks can not jump straight upward more than 4 feet. Each animal should have a separate pen.

DENS:

The den consists of an inner box 10 or 12 inches square inclosed by an outer box about 24 inches square, the space between them being packed with dry leaves or straw. The inner box is entered near the top through a 4-inch spout, 2 feet long, slanting downward through the outer wall to within an inch of the ground. The outer end of the spout has a door which may be closed from outside the pen. Dens exposed to the weather are built to keep out wind and rain. Both boxes have covers. Dens should always be shaded and kept dry and dark. Fine straw or hay should be provided for the nests.

BREEDING:

Minks may be kept in pairs or in the proportion of one male to four or five females. The mating season is in February or March. The young are born in April or May. Males should be admitted to females about one day; or when kept in pairs they may be allowed to run with females until the end of the rutting period. Females should always be kept separate while with young.

Bi-106
Oct. '21

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

HINTS ON THE CARE OF MINKS.



FOOD:

Wild minks follow water courses and feed on frogs, fish, mice, birds, crawfish, and other small creatures. In captivity they learn readily to eat a variety of cereals, as well-cooked graham mush and wheat or corn bread, mixed with chopped or ground meat and milk or meat broth. Their principal diet, however, should always be meat or fish. Fresh chicken, rabbit, and fish heads, English sparrows, and carcasses of trapped woodchucks, muskrats, and skunks make excellent mink feed. When minks are fed largely on milk they should be watched to see that it does not cause diarrhea. Adults require about 4 ounces of clean meat, or the equivalent, daily. A strict diet of perfectly fresh beef is an excellent remedy for intestinal troubles. Cooked food is best when served warm, especially in winter. Feed twice a day, not more than is eaten up clean within a few minutes. Do not allow food to be stored in nests. Keep pans clean and provide fresh water regularly.

PENS:

Pens should have an area of about 32 square feet. They may be of heavy 1-inch-mesh poultry netting, galvanized sheet iron, or smooth boards set on end. If netting is used, it should cover top, bottom, and sides. Board or iron walls should extend 2 feet into the ground and be turned inward a foot at the bottom. Their height depends on the snowfall. Minks can not jump straight upward more than 4 feet. Each animal should have a separate pen.

DENS:

The den consists of an inner box 10 or 12 inches square inclosed by an outer box about 24 inches square, the space between them being packed with dry leaves or straw. The inner box is entered near the top through a 4-inch spout, 2 feet long, slanting downward through the outer wall to within an inch of the ground. The outer end of the spout has a door which may be closed from outside the pen. Dens exposed to the weather are built to keep out wind and rain. Both boxes have covers. Dens should always be shaded and kept dry and dark. Fine straw or hay should be provided for the nests.

BREEDING:

Minks may be kept in pairs or in the proportion of one male to four or five females. The mating season is in February or March. The young are born in April or May. Males should be admitted to females about one day; or when kept in pairs they may be allowed to run with females until the end of the rutting period. Females should always be kept separate while with young.

